

# LESBIAN & GAY FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA

Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia was founded in 1979 in order, as its constitution states, "to provide a support group for gay men and lesbians on campus and for those seeking a forum to discuss and debate a wide range of issues in the gay movement." LGFC has operated well as a forum for such discussion and we are proud to say that our group has been one of the most active on campus in the past couple of years. But perhaps the most important function LGFC has fulfilled is that of a "support group" for its members. Whatever our "political" inclinations — and no gay group can completely avoid politics in a society which still feels discomfort when faced with homosexuality — LGFC's primary purpose has been to provide a place for gay men and women to meet and befriend other gay people. It is essential that an organization like L.G.F.C. exist; Concordia can be a very large, lonely place for a gay person who is unsure about meeting others like him or herself or who fears to "reveal" him or herself at all. Quite a few people have first "come out" by attending a meeting of LGFC. Incidentally, we know of no one who has regretted it.

Our activities vary: we invite to our meetings speakers who talk with us on topics such as literature, psychology, medicine, social services, the law, religion, discrimination and many others. We host dances, wine and cheese parties and "coffee houses", and we present films from time to time. In October of last year, we put on an arts festival which included a display of visual art, the showing of films and a very memorable concert with two lesbian singers, Ferron and Heather Bishop. For this year, we have not planned any event on this scale, but we do intend to meet every week on some pretext or other; speaker, discussion, film, or just plain socializing. We try always to keep you informed of our activities through the events page in the student newspaper, *The Link* and *Thursday Report*.

LGFC is open to all students, faculty and staff of Concordia. Our membership oscillates between thirty and fifty people. This figure obviously represents but a fraction of the gay population of an institution the size of our university. Many simply do not feel the need for the kind of social, recreational or (at the risk of sounding inexcusably pompous) intellectual milieu which LGFC provides. Others, we fear, are too afraid to come out, either at university or anywhere else. To these, we would like to address a heartfelt plea. Don't waste your time with fear; it will only hurt you. We know exactly how you feel. We know too how relieved and how alive you will feel when you

have declared yourself. There is every reason to feel proud of being gay. You know that one has no choice in being so; do not let others deny you the choice you do have, between forcing yourself into an alien pattern and being, quite simply and naturally, yourself. You don't have to come out to us, although we will be glad to help you in any way we can, but come out. You'll never regret it.

Bice

For further information call 937-0200 (Evenings).